



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/664,008

09/16/2003

Benedikt Sas

4532680/16900 (KEM 69)

3907

26386

7590

08/19/2008

DAVIS, BROWN, KOEHN, SHORS & ROBERTS, P.C.
THE DAVIS BROWN TOWER
215 10TH STREET SUITE 1300
DES MOINES, IA 50309

EXAMINER

WANG, SHENGJUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/19/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/664,008	Applicant(s) SAS ET AL.	
	Examiner Shengjun Wang	Art Unit 1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 27, 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qian et al. (J. Traditional Chinese Medicine vol. 2, No. 4, pp 272-276), Efferth et al. (IDS), Zheng et al. (IDS), Venugopalan et al. (EP 0 456 149 A1, IDS), and Li et al. (CN 1122806 A), and in further view of Crooks et al. (US 6,677,347).

3. Qian et al. teaches that artemisinin (qinghaosu) have immunologic and antiviral activity. It augments cell-mediated immunity. See, particularly the Abstract. Efferth et al. teaches that artesunate is effective against cytomegalovirus, see, particularly the abstract; Zheng et al. also teaches that artemether is effective for suppressing the epidemic hemorrhagic fever virus. See, particularly, the abstract. Venugopalan et al. teaches method of treating viral infection comprising administering artemisinin compounds. See, particularly the claims. Li et al. teaches

Art Unit: 1617

artemisinin derivatives are known to be useful as anti-tumor, antiviral and anti-parasitic agents. See, particularly the abstract. It is noted that the artemisinin derivatives employed by Venugopalan et al and Li et al. is not within the scope of artemisinin compounds defined herein, but, the compounds all have the core structure of artemisinin. The cited references as a whole have fairly teach or suggest that compounds with the core structure of artemisinin have a broad spectrum of antiviral, anti-tumor, anti-parasitic activity and have immunologic augmenting activity.

4. The prima references as a whole do not teach expressly the employment of the artemisinin compounds for treatment of hepatitis C infection, alone, or with interferon.

5. However, Crooks et al. teaches that compound that augments cell-mediated immunity, as well as interferon, are useful for treatment of tumors and viral infections, such as hepatitis C infection. See, particularly, col. 19, line 39 to col. 20, line 54.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to employ artemisinin, alone, or with interferon, for the treatment of hepatitis C infection.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ artemisinin, alone, or with interferon, for the treatment of hepatitis C infection because artemisinin are antiviral agents useful against a broad spectrum of virus and are known to augment cell-mediated immunity and compounds augmenting cell-mediated immunity, as well as interferon, are useful for treating viral infections, such as hepatitis C infection. The further employment of interferon with artemisinin would have been obvious because both agents are known to be useful for treatment of viral infections and it is prima facie obvious to combine two compositions each of

Art Unit: 1617

which is taught in the prior art to be useful for same purpose in order to form third composition that is to be used for very the same purpose; idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in prior art; thus, the claimed invention which is a combination of two known antiviral agents sets forth prima facie obvious subject matter. See In re Kerkhoven, 205 USPQ 1069.

Response to the Arguments

Applicants' amendments and remarks submitted May 27, 2008 have been fully considered, but are not persuasive.

6. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Particularly, The cited references as a whole have fairly teach or suggest that compounds with the core structure of artemisinin have a broad spectrum of antiviral, anti-tumor, anti-parasitic activity and have immunologic augmenting activity. Further, it is known that that compound that augments cell-mediated immunity, as well as interferon, are useful for treatment of tumors and viral infections, such as hepatitis C infection. Therefore, the employment of artemisinin for treatment of hepatitis C infection would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

7. The arguments that hepatitis C virus has distinct genetic structure as compared to the other viruses expressly disclosed in the cited references are not persuasive because the prior art as a whole teaches that artemisinin possesses a broad spectrum of antiviral and antimicrobial

Art Unit: 1617

activities. One of ordinary skill on the art would have reasonably expected that artemisinin be useful against the particular virus herein.

8. The remarks regarding augments cell-mediated immunity are not probative. Note, Crooke reference is cited to show that it is known in the art that compound that augments cell-mediated immunity, as well as interferon, are useful for treatment of tumors and viral infections, such as hepatitis C. Crooke reference does not teach expressly the employment of artemisinin. However, considering the cited references as a whole, the employment of artemisinin for treatment of a particular viral infection, such as hepatitis C infection would have been obvious for reasons discussed above.

9. *The pending claims contain subject matter drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply filed on March 19, 2007. A complete reply to the final rejection must include amendments of the claims so that the pending claims are limited to elected invention, i.e., for the compounds, wherein X1, X2, Y and Z are oxygen.*

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shengjun Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-0632. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan, can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

Art Unit: 1617

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Shengjun Wang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1617